

Sunday
Aug 10, 1980

~~Dear Mom, Dad, & Mary,~~

It was nice talking to you on the phone yesterday. Maybe we finally have the mails figured out. I'll probably mail my letters from the office for convenience, but it is nice to have yours delivered at home. During the week the mail is delivered about 7:30 A.M. While on Saturday it is delayed until about 10 A.M.!

I stayed home on Friday since our belongings were delivered. We put the large items in storage, but kept enough to make the flat familiar. We have been eating at home most nights but went out Friday night to a Greek place around the corner. I had soup, lamb with okra, and baklava. Vickie had a Greek salad, fresh prawns, and a fresh mango.

Saturday morning we drove down to the office to buy some beer & film at the Navy Exchange. Prices are low even for the U.S. Next we went to the Exchange gas station and paid \$1.81 per Imperial gallon which equals \$1.51 per U.S. gallon; a real bargain. Next we visited the fellow in replacing. He and his family are sailing for New York on Monday. We got a number of voltage transformers from him so we now have the stereo, lamp, and other appliances taken care of.

Next we went out to a sports stadium where I ran in a 10 mile race. ~~It was a lot different than~~ the U.S. Most entrants were on teams and very serious runners. Vickie managed to get some water for me since none is provided. I had a good time (67:27) for the conditions.

As soon as the pubs opened we were there having our pints of bitter. Then we went to a bistro where we had artichoke heart salad, halibut with cream sauce, and fresh fruit with cheese. Finally, we watched the Friday night French movie to complete a very busy day!

Today we woke up to a bright, sunny day and had our eggs & toast with the Sunday Times at our usual place across the street.

Then we drove out to Richmond Park about 20 min (without the wrong turns) south of ~~us~~ it is difficult to describe the feeling of being in this 2,500 acre park established by Charles I in 1637.

Vast grassy fields, stands of ancient oak, and many deer.

It is a place you must see.

We walked several miles and then had a "Ploughman's Lunch" (bread, cheese, whole tomato) with a bottle of ale and an almond tart in the restaurant. Next we walked into town along the busy banks of the Thames and looked at the remains of Richmond Palace where Henry VIII heard that Ann Boleyn had been executed and Queen Elizabeth I died. From High St. there is a beautiful vista of the river which has been noted by writers since ancient times.

~~My work is going very well.~~
The Operations Officer, a senior captain, wants me to check the mathematical formulas which determine how much ordnance is allotted to us. The purpose is to insure that we get our

"fairshare" relative to the Pacific.
This project will probably last
my entire year and may involve
trips to Germany and Wash D.C.

We are getting more comfortable
here every day and, I think,
getting the most out of this
wonderful opportunity. We're
very anxious for your visits
and hope to see you soon.
I'll be sending more pictures
this week.

Love,

Jim & Vickie
